

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-22 have been rejected. Claim 4 has been canceled for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of the current application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 13, 14, 21, and 22 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 6, 13, 14, and 22 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection of this claim. Claims 1 and 7 have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotsakis, "XSD: A Hierarchical Access Method For Indexing XML Schemata". As noted above, claim 4 has been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 5-22 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 7, and 21 have been amended to more clearly recite that a schema definition is generated based on an XML document. Additionally, the schema definition defines elements that appear in the XML document and attributes associated with the elements.

Kotsakis fails to disclose or suggest generating a schema definition based on an XML document, where the schema definition defines elements that appear in the XML document and attributes associated with the elements. Kotsakis is directed to generating a directory that indexes schema for an XML document database, and not to generating a schema definition for an XML document itself. A schema directory is completely different than a schema definition. The schema directory is a hierarchical organization of XML documents in which structurally close schemata are merged, whereas a schema definition defines elements that appear in an XML document and attributes associated with the elements.

Kotsakis describes a document compound structure (DCS) to represent the structural composition of XML documents (p. 170). As noted in the Office Action, two or more DCSs may be merged pursuant to a merger DCS. Kotsakis describes the merger DCS as depicting a generic XML schema (p.182). The merger DCS contains all the paths found in any of the

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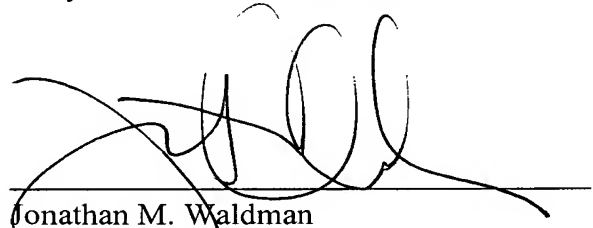
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original DCSs (p.183). However, these DCS paths are not elements that appear in the XML document and are not attributes associated with such elements, as claimed.

Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 7, and 21, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-20, and 22, should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Kotsakis. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3 and 5-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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